

**FISH MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION: ORGANIZATIONAL  
AND OPERATIONAL REVIEW**

**STATUS REPORT**

OCTOBER 31, 2002



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND REVIEW  
COMMITTEE

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## BACKGROUND

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, together with the Fish and Wildlife Commission, has been directed in state statute (RCW 77.04.012) to:

- Preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage the wildlife and food fish, game fish, and shellfish in state waters and offshore waters;
- Promote orderly fisheries and enhance and improve recreational and commercial fishing in this state;
- Seek to maintain the economic well-being and stability of the fishing industry in the state; and
- Attempt to maximize the public recreational game fishing and hunting opportunities of all citizens.

This agency's major operational programs are its Fish, Habitat, and Wildlife Programs, as well as Enforcement, Business Services, and the Director's Office. The Fish Program is the largest of the agency's programs, with approximately \$130 million in total operating funds and about 800 staff FTEs in the 2001-03 Biennium. In turn, the Fish Program is made up of four divisions: Administration, Hatcheries, Science, and Fish Management. This JLARC study will be concerned with the Fish Management Division.

## MANDATE

The Legislature in its 2002 Supplemental to the 2001-03 Operating Budget directed JLARC to undertake an operational and organizational review of the Fish Management Division within the Fish Program. JLARC's review will include—

- Identifying actual functions of the Fish Management Division, including expenditures by fund source linked to those functions, and the agency's rationale for its current staffing and expenditure levels;*
- Distinguishing specific Division activities and expenditures mandated by court decisions, federal laws or treaties, federal contracts, state laws, and Fish and Wildlife Commission directives, as apart from department discretionary policies;*
- Reviewing whether and how Division activities and related program expenditures contribute to meeting legislative intent, agency goals, and programmatic objectives; and*
- Evaluating how performance in meeting intent, goals, and objectives through program activities is measured, reported, and improved.*

A final report is due to appropriate legislative policy and fiscal committees by December 2003.

## PROPOSED STUDY SCHEDULE

Work on this JLARC study will commence during November 2002. JLARC staff experienced in natural resource issues and in fiscal analysis will be involved in this project. The Legislature has provided \$75,000 in the Department of Fish and Wildlife's FY 2003 budget to augment resources available for this study. JLARC intends to seek outside experts, when appropriate, to assist with its review. The Department's Director has assured JLARC of full cooperation from agency staff. A formal presentation of the study's Scope and Objectives will be made to JLARC at a later date.

## JLARC STAFF CONTACTS

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